

Data Highlights

The aim of the third National Education Goal is that all students will be competent in academic subject matter. State-level results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, indicate that most states have made progress toward this Goal in mathematics.

The aim of the fifth National Education Goal is that U.S. students will achieve world-class levels of performance in mathematics and science achievement. Based on their NAEP scores, 14 states would be expected to achieve this level of performance in science.

- The percentage of students who met the Goals Panel's performance standard (that is, a score at the two highest levels of achievement on NAEP) increased significantly during the 1990s:

- ◆ nationally and in 7 states in 4th grade mathematics; and
- ◆ nationally and in 27 states in 8th grade mathematics.

- The majority of states that participated in NAEP assessments during the 1990s have improved in at least one grade in mathematics. Twenty-eight states have earned at least one star (out of a possible two) for improvement over time:



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| 1. Arizona | 11. Kentucky | 21. North Dakota |
| 2. Arkansas | 12. Maryland | 22. Oregon |
| 3. California | 13. Michigan | 23. Rhode Island |
| 4. Colorado | 14. Minnesota | 24. Tennessee |
| 5. Connecticut | 15. Montana | 25. Texas |
| 6. Delaware | 16. Nebraska | 26. West Virginia |
| 7. Florida | 17. New Hampshire | 27. Wisconsin |
| 8. Hawaii | 18. New Mexico | 28. Wyoming |
| 9. Indiana | 19. New York | |
| 10. Iowa | 20. North Carolina | |

- Six of these states have earned two stars (out of a possible two) for improvement over time:



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| 1. Colorado | 3. Indiana | 5. Texas |
| 2. Connecticut | 4. North Carolina | 6. West Virginia |


- Seven states that made significant gains in mathematics were also among the highest-performing states in the nation:

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| 1. Connecticut | 4. Montana | 6. North Dakota |
| 2. Iowa | 5. Nebraska | 7. Wisconsin |
| 3. Minnesota | | |

- A recent research study used NAEP mathematics and science scores to predict how states would perform relative to the 41 nations that participated in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). The National Education Goals Panel has awarded an additional gold star to 14 states that would be expected to reach world-class levels of performance. In these states, only one nation – Singapore – would be expected to outperform U.S. students in 8th grade science:



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| 1. Colorado | 6. Minnesota | 11. Utah |
| 2. Connecticut | 7. Montana | 12. Vermont |
| 3. Iowa | 8. Nebraska | 13. Wisconsin |
| 4. Maine | 9. North Dakota | 14. Wyoming |
| 5. Massachusetts | 10. Oregon | |

- The states that earned the highest number of gold stars in this report are  Colorado and Connecticut. Each earned two stars for significant improvement over time in 4th grade and 8th grade mathematics, and a third star for reaching world-class levels of performance in 8th grade science.